



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

March 28, 2012

Melrose Castillo

REDACTED

Re: Warning Letter and Notification of Administrative Committee Termination

✓ Young Alhambra Latinos for Political Reform ID#1292453

Young Alhambrans for Political Reform ID#1292456

Dear Mr. Castillo:

The Fair Political Practices Commission ("Commission") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹ As you are aware, the Commission received a complaint against you alleging a violation of the mass mailing provisions of the Act. Specifically, the complaint alleges that you sent campaign mailers out through the Young Alhambra Latinos for Political Reform committee and/or the Young Alhambrans for Political Reform committee ("Respondent Committees") which did not contain the proper sender identification and were not disclosed on Respondent Committees' campaign statements.

The Commission has completed its investigation into the facts of this case. Specifically, the Commission has determined that you violated the sender identification provisions and the campaign filing provisions of the Act when you sent out more than 1,000 copies of a newsletter from Respondent Committee(s) without the proper sender identification and failed to file campaign statements required to disclose this activity. The Commission has decided to close this case with this warning letter and administratively terminate both Respondent Committees.

The Act requires a candidate or committee that sends out a mass mailer be identified by the name of the candidate and committee, the committee's street address and city in no less than 6 point type in a color or print that contrasts with the background. (Section 84305.) Under the Act's campaign reporting system, county and city general purpose committees are required to file specified campaign statements and reports disclosing contributions received and expenditures made by certain deadlines with their city clerks. (See Sections 84200 – 84209.)

The complainant in this matter alleged that you failed to properly identify your committee when you sent out a mass mailing in connection with the November 2006 local election. We

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

reviewed the mailer and while it contains name of Respondent Committee, the sender identification failed to include the street address and city of Respondent Committee. However, since you were criminally prosecuted for a similar violation with former Monterey Park councilwoman Sharon Martinez as well as the lack of activity by Respondent Committees other than this mailer, we are closing this matter with this warning letter and administratively terminating Respondent Committees.

This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Administrative Termination: On early November, 2006, you filed Statements of Organization with the Secretary of State and the City of Alhambra City Clerk's office for each committee listed above. However, no campaign statement or reports were filed with the City of Alhambra subsequently. After numerous attempts at contact with you and Respondent Committees to facilitate filings without success, the Commission has determined that administrative termination is appropriate for Respondent Committees. Following the procedure adopted by the Commission in Regulation 18404.2, the Commission sent you and Respondent Committees a letter dated December 23, 2011, informing you that Respondent Committees will be administratively terminated in 90 days unless you terminate them yourself or contact us with a written objection. *Since we have not received any correspondence from you and Respondent Committees have not been terminated, the Commission has administratively terminated Respondent Committees and they will not be able to receive contributions or make expenditures unless reinstated.*

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Gary Winuk
Chief, Enforcement Division